

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/602,079  
Attorney's Docket No. 97-3-802CON1

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, dated March 30, 2004, the Examiner rejects claims 1-26 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,584. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections of pending claims 1-26 is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects pending claims 1-26 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,584. In support of the rejection, the Examiner alleges that "although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other...". Applicant traverses and respectfully submits that the claims of the present application are patentably distinct from the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,584. For example, claim 1 recites features that are different than, and patentably distinct from the features recited in claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,584. As another example, claim 21 recites features that are different than, and patentably distinct from, the features recited in claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,584. For the sake of expediting prosecution, however, Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer. In view of this terminal disclaimer, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-26 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

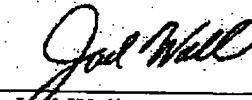
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In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. If any questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 07-2347 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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Date: June 30, 2004

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